Friday Holds Off Kelly's Charge to Post Saugus Main-Event Victory

By STEVEN FLEISCHMAN,
Times Staff Writer

Thad Friday of Reseda held off a late charge from Brian Kelly of Arleta to win the 25-lap Hobby Stock main event before a crowd of 4,344 on Saturday night at Saugus Speedway.

Friday passed Joe Barreras Jr. of Canyon Country, who had car trouble, on Lap 16 to win his second main event of the season.

Kelly finished second, followed by Shannon Flavin of West Hills and Scott Wade of Burbank.

Joe Bolio won the 15-lap jalopy main event, passing North Hollywood's Robert Wade, who finished second, on Lap 11. Wade had taken the lead from Andrew Debiaso of Van Nuys on Lap 9 when Debiaso spun out.

John Kirby of Ventura handily won a 12-lap Street Stock semi-main event to advance to the main event. Also advancing were Sue Pittinato of West Hills, Brian Polzin of Saugus and Larry Ofria of Northridge.

Earlier in the night, Rick Crow of Canyon Country broke the track's two-year-old oval qualifying record for Street Stocks with a time of 18.54. The previous record, set in 1987 by John Cran, was 18.62.

Crow might have pushed his car too hard, however, as he blew his transmission.

Please see SAUGUS, Page 18

SAUGUS

Continued from Page 16

Still, Crow was able to continue after borrowing a transmission from Craig Rayburn.

Barreras, who entered the night eighth in Hobby Stock points, won a figure 8 heat race of Hobby Stock and Jalopy cars. Earlier, Barreras won a trophy dash and another heat race.

Street Stock points leader Steve Nickolai of Simi Valley increased his lead with heat race and figure 8 trophy dash victories.

Other Street Stock heat-race winners included: Russ Beckers of Sepulveda (figure 8), Kirby Ira (oval and figure 8) and Mike Mandel of Arleta.

Richard Fannolo of Huntington Beach won a Hobby Stock heat race. Efran Gonzalez and Héctor Cruz, both of Sun Valley, won Jalopy heat races.

Other trophy-dash winners included: Rip Michels of Arleta (Street Stock); Nickolai (Street Stock figure 8); Barreras (Hobby Stock); Brian Kelly of Arleta (Hobby Stock figure 8).